

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1 and 3 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a reading unit which reads a code given to a commodity;

an individual operator setting information collecting unit which collects individual operator setting information comprising operation-internal information representing a time interval between operations to read the code, reading-time information at operations to read the code, and double-read-ban time information at operations to read the code, wherein the operation-interval information, reading-time information, and double-read-ban time information depend ~~depending on personal features of operators engaged in operation for reading the code;~~

a setting unit which sets operation standard on the basis of the individual operator setting information corresponding to a specific operator before the operation; and

a monitoring-controlling unit which ~~monitors whether the operation relating to the operator conforms to the operation standard or not~~ operates the apparatus according to the operation-interval information, reading-time information, and double-read-ban time information within the operation standard.

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personal features are at least the rhythm of the operator in the operation.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, the apparatus further comprising:

an operation-information reading unit reading the individual operation setting information recorded on a portable recording medium, wherein said setting unit sets the operation standard on the basis of the individual operation setting information read out from the portable recording medium ~~uniformly determined default setting information regardless of the individual operator setting information or personal features.~~

4. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a writing unit which writes the individual operator setting information in a portable recording medium corresponding to an operator; and a setting reading unit which reads the individual operator setting information from the portable recording medium before operation,

wherein said setting unit determines the operation standard on the basis of the read individual operator setting information.

5. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an authenticating unit which checks authentication of the operator,

wherein said writing unit and reading unit writes and reads by using the checking of said authenticating unit as the trigger.

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a pronouncing unit which generates a specified sound depending on the state of the operation,

wherein said setting unit sets volume and/or tone information of the specified sound desired by the operator in said pronouncing unit.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said writing unit writes the volume and/or tone information in said portable recording medium, said setting reading unit reads the volume and/or tone information from said portable recording medium before operation, and said setting unit sets the read volume and/or tone information in said pronouncing unit.

8-15 CANCELLED